

## ENGLAND NETBALL DOMESTIC GUIDANCE FOR MATCH PERSONNEL

The priority must be to encourage increased participation in Netball, while being sensitive to religious practices, cultural differences, health, and well-being issues, for example, climatic weather conditions with due regard to the safety of all participants.

**Players Uniform:** Exceptionally non-registered playing uniform may be worn. There is no intention to debar players from wearing tracksuits and clothing that reflect the uniform and colours of a club. Umpires should act responsibly and sensitively in checking that the players' uniform reflects both the World Netball Rules and EN Domestic Rules Guidance. Umpires should therefore use common sense when applying the rules in the local leagues.

**Gloves:** No form of glove should normally be worn when playing Netball. However, EN recognises its responsibility for duty of care to all players playing Netball, particularly outside and within school and junior competition. In extreme weather or climatic conditions, or with a medical condition, gloves may be worn. If for medical reasons gloves are required, then on production of an appropriate medical certificate/letter, a local league, County, Region or EN should allow gloves to be worn. The player should ensure that the gloves worn do not endanger other players' safety. Gloves should be plain, soft leather or micro fibre (e.g. Neoprene) which are manufactured without seams (or with internally sewn seams) and have no abrasive materials including but not limited to zippers, Velcro, metallic or plastic fasteners or rubberized embellishments used to improve grip. Umpires are reminded that they still need to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players. Umpires must also check fingernails conform to World Netball Rule 3.12 (fingernails must be short and smooth).

**Head Coverings:** A player may wear a hat, head covering or scarf. They should ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft and without embellishments or loose fibres, which might constitute a danger to any other player on the court, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar. Headbands that meet the requirements as above should be allowed. Peaked, baseball or tennis type caps do not meet the requirements and are not permitted.

**Eyewear:** If a player/coach/official has to wear glasses for medical reasons then she/he is fully insured from an EN point of view, but the glasses are not insured. Sunglasses should not normally be worn when participating in netball activities. However, sunglasses may be worn for genuine medical reasons when participating in recognised and authorised EN activities. If sunglasses are required for genuine medical reasons, then an appropriate medical certificate must be supplied to EN (or the appropriate League, County or Region).

**Jewellery / adornments and medical alerts:** It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they comply with World Netball Rule 3.12. Decorative beading or metal clasps should not be worn in a player's hair as these have the potential to add weight or may act as a slip hazard if they come loose. Players that have beading that cannot be easily removed may choose to cover their hair with a scarf, but this must comply with the guidance outlined in 'Head Coverings'. They may also choose to contain their hair in a net. Dermal piercings (that are located below the skin and cannot be easily removed) and flat religious rings or bracelets (which are not to be removed for religious and / or cultural reasons) are to be suitably covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others.

**Ear Tunnels/Lobe Stretchers:** It is recommended that ear tunnels and/or lobe stretchers are not removed as this can lead to a greater risk. These should instead be replaced with a flat silicone 'spacer' and secured into place with tape to prevent them from being dislodged.

**Daith /Tragus Piercing:** The medical evidence regarding a Daith/Tragus piercing is only anecdotal at this time with some Doctors prepared to support its use and some that do not. England Netball would

suggest that the player gets a supporting letter from a doctor and then appeals to their league committee for a dispensation as there may be local regulations that apply. If granted it is suggested that the player wears a headband covering her piercing. Taping is not sufficient, and the headband would offer an additional level of safety to the wearer and other players.

**Hair:** Hair should be suitably tied back whilst participating in Netball and any hair accessory that is used should not pose any risk to any individual. A single 'ponytail' is sufficient for all hair types. Hair should be free from any decorative adornment. Where an adornment is not easily removable the hair should be suitably secured and covered with a head covering or scarf. This provides an additional level of safety for the wearer and other players on court.

**Medical aids:** Players wearing medical aids to protect injury or post-surgery and who are prepared to take the risk of playing, may take the court provided the medical aid is covered adequately thus preventing no obvious hazard to other players. Such players are advised to ensure that they have appropriate personal liability insurance coverage. Any medical aid must be approved by a qualified medical practitioner especially when returning to Netball from injury and have an appropriate medical certificate/letter. The medical aid must be 'flexible' form and not inhibit movement for the individual. The wearing of ankle braces does not apply to these medical aid guidelines therefore can be worn. *Please note that Libre sensors used by diabetic players to monitor blood sugar levels are not required to be covered as they pose no additional risk to the wearer or other players.*

**Pregnancy:** EN recommends that individuals (players, coaches, umpires etc) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by EN. Neither EN, nor the registered netball organisation will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised netball activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. The EN Personal Accident cover will not provide any benefit for injury, loss, or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. For example, if an 'Insured Person' who is pregnant is involved in an accident (not pregnancy related) and suffers a broken leg then, subject to claims validation, the policy would pay any broken bones benefit, the Hospital Confinement benefit and Temporary Total Disablement benefit due under the Personal Accident Insurance Policy resulting from this injury. However, if the absence or hospital stay is prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth then this would not be covered. The programme of insurance that is centrally arranged by EN is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that Affiliated Members (referred to in the Liability insurance documents as 'Registered Participants') and in the Personal Accident documents as an 'Insured Person' are covered for Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, at the level of cover applicable to their category of membership. This information is intended as a guide only - full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the policy documents, in association with EN's current Memorandum, Articles, Regulations and Policies. The summary of cover is available in the member welcome email and full policy documents are available from Howden.